

College and Career Readiness in Kentucky

Kentucky believes that, as the nature of work and the types of careers change, *all* students will need higher-level skills to meet their career goals. The expected outcome of addressing the readiness issues in this manner is that more students will reach higher levels of proficiency and more students will be college and career ready.

What is Kentucky's definition of college readiness?

College readiness is the level of preparation a first-time student needs in order to succeed in a credit-bearing course at a postsecondary institution. "Succeed" is defined as completing entry-level courses at a level of understanding and proficiency that prepares the student for subsequent courses. Kentucky's systemwide standards of readiness guarantee students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for developmental education or supplemental courses. Developmental education courses do not award credit for a degree.

What is Kentucky's definition of career readiness?

Career readiness is the level of preparation a high school graduate needs in order to proceed to the next step in a chosen career, whether that is postsecondary coursework, industry certification, or entry into the workforce. According to the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), career readiness includes core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills to concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities; employability skills that are essential in any career area such as critical thinking and responsibility; and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway.

What are the standards of readiness?

Most definitions of college readiness include some predictive statement about how well students will do in relevant college courses based on national assessments, such as the ACT or SAT. For example, ACT sets benchmark scores for college readiness based on success in college courses that would count toward a degree. "Success" is defined by ACT as 50% or higher probability of earning a B or higher in the corresponding college course or courses and 75% or higher probability of earning a C or higher in the corresponding college course or courses.

What ACT scores determine college readiness for Kentucky students?

The Kentucky systemwide standards of college readiness are ACT scores of 18 for English, a score of 20 for reading, and a mathematics score of 19 for some introductory courses in mathematics (often statistics or an applied mathematics course), a 22 for college algebra, and a 27 for calculus. The Kentucky systemwide standards of readiness guarantee students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for developmental education or supplemental courses. *SAT equivalent scores may also be used.*

Why does Kentucky have three college readiness standards for mathematics?

A three-tiered approach to mathematics was used to establish mathematics readiness levels for various fields of study. For example, a survey of Kentucky institutions found that most majors in the liberal arts and social sciences fields do not require college algebra. A readiness score for mathematics courses for these majors was investigated and subsequently established based on student performance in the liberal arts mathematics courses required for these students. Typically, one-half of all graduates were in liberal arts or social sciences fields. The ACT score of 22 for college algebra reflects both Kentucky and national success data. The third tier for calculus readiness is typically listed as a course prerequisite. Prior to establishing a calculus readiness level, each Kentucky institution established its own ACT prerequisite. The calculus readiness score reflects a level of readiness that would guarantee placement in an entry level calculus course at any Kentucky institution.

What happens if a student does not meet the college readiness standards in any area?

Kentucky students not meeting readiness benchmarks can demonstrate needed competency levels through placement testing.